

Appl. No. : 09/776,383
Filed : 02/02/2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-3. (Cancelled)

~~1~~ ¹ (Previously presented) A process for preparing an organic silicate polymer having a flexible bridge unit in the network comprising the step of:

reacting the following component (a) with the following component (b) in an organic solvent after addition of water and catalyst:

(a) organosilane of the formula $R^1_m R^2_n SiX_{4-m-n}$ (where each of R^1 and R^2 which may be the same or different, is a non-hydrolysable group selected from hydrogen, alkyl, fluorine-containing alkyl or aryl group; X is a hydrolysable group selected from halide, alkoxy or acyloxy; and m and n are integers of from 0 to 3 satisfying $0 \leq m+n \leq 3$) or a partially hydrolyzed condensate thereof; and

(b) organic bridged silane of the formula $R^3_p Y_{3-p} Si-M-SiR^4_q Z_{3-q}$ (where each of R^1 and R^4 which may be the same or different, is a non-hydrolysable group selected from hydrogen, alkyl, fluorine-containing alkyl, alkenyl or aryl; each of Y and Z which may be the same or different, is a hydrolysable group selected from halide, alkoxy or acyloxy; M is alkylene or arylene group; and p and q are integers of from 0 to 2) or a cyclic oligomer with organic bridge unit (Si-M-Si), wherein the organic bridged silane is synthesized by reacting a silane monomer containing a Si-H with a silane monomer containing aliphatic unsaturated carbon ($-CH=CH_2$) in the presence of a catalyst.

5-6. (Cancelled)

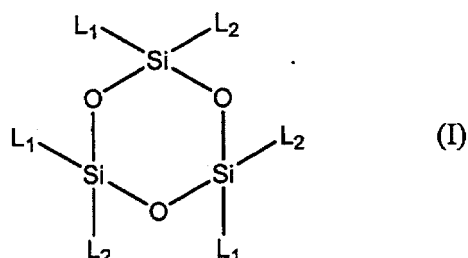
~~2~~ ² (Previously presented) The process according to Claim ~~4~~ ¹ wherein the organic silicate polymer has a weight average molecular weight of from 500 to 100,000.

8-11. (Cancelled)

~~3~~ ³ ~~12~~ (Previously presented) The process according to Claim ~~4~~ ¹, wherein the partially hydrolyzed condensate of the organosilane is obtained by reacting the organosilane of the formula $R^1_m R^2_n SiX_{4-m-n}$ with water in an organic solvent in the presence of a catalyst.

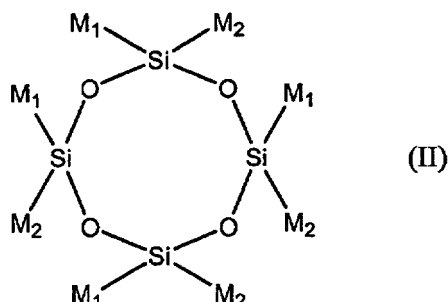
~~4~~ ⁴ ~~13~~ (Previously presented) The process according to Claim ~~4~~ ¹, wherein the cyclic oligomer with organic bridge unit (Si-M-Si) is synthesized by the hydrosilylation reaction of an oligomer of ring structure (I):

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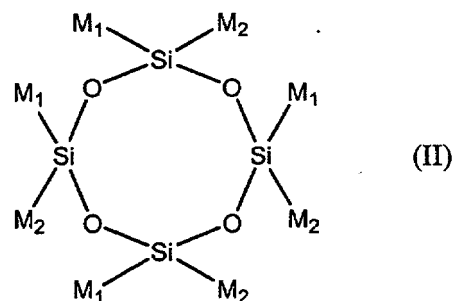
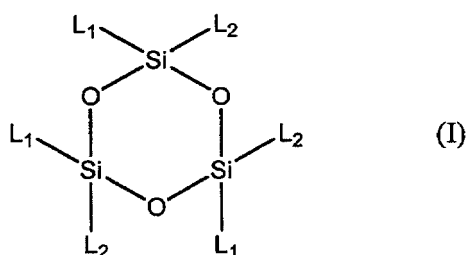
wherein L_1 is alkenyl; and L_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and aryl.

5 14. (Currently amended) The process according to Claim ¹4, wherein the cyclic oligomer with organic bridge unit (Si-M-Si) is synthesized by the hydrosilylation reaction of an oligomer of ring structure (II):



wherein M_1 is alkenyl; and M_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and aryl.

6 15. (Currently amended) The process according to Claim ¹4, wherein the cyclic oligomer with organic bridge unit (Si-M-Si) is synthesized by the hydrosilylation reaction of an oligomer of ring structure (I) and an oligomer of ring structure (II):



wherein L_1 is alkenyl; L_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and aryl; M_1 is alkenyl; and M_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and aryl.

7 16. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim ¹4, wherein an amount of the organic bridged silane reacted with component (a) is greater than 5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of component (a).

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17-27. (Cancelled)